

FEBRUARY 2006

ffa *new horizons*



THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

Living To Serve

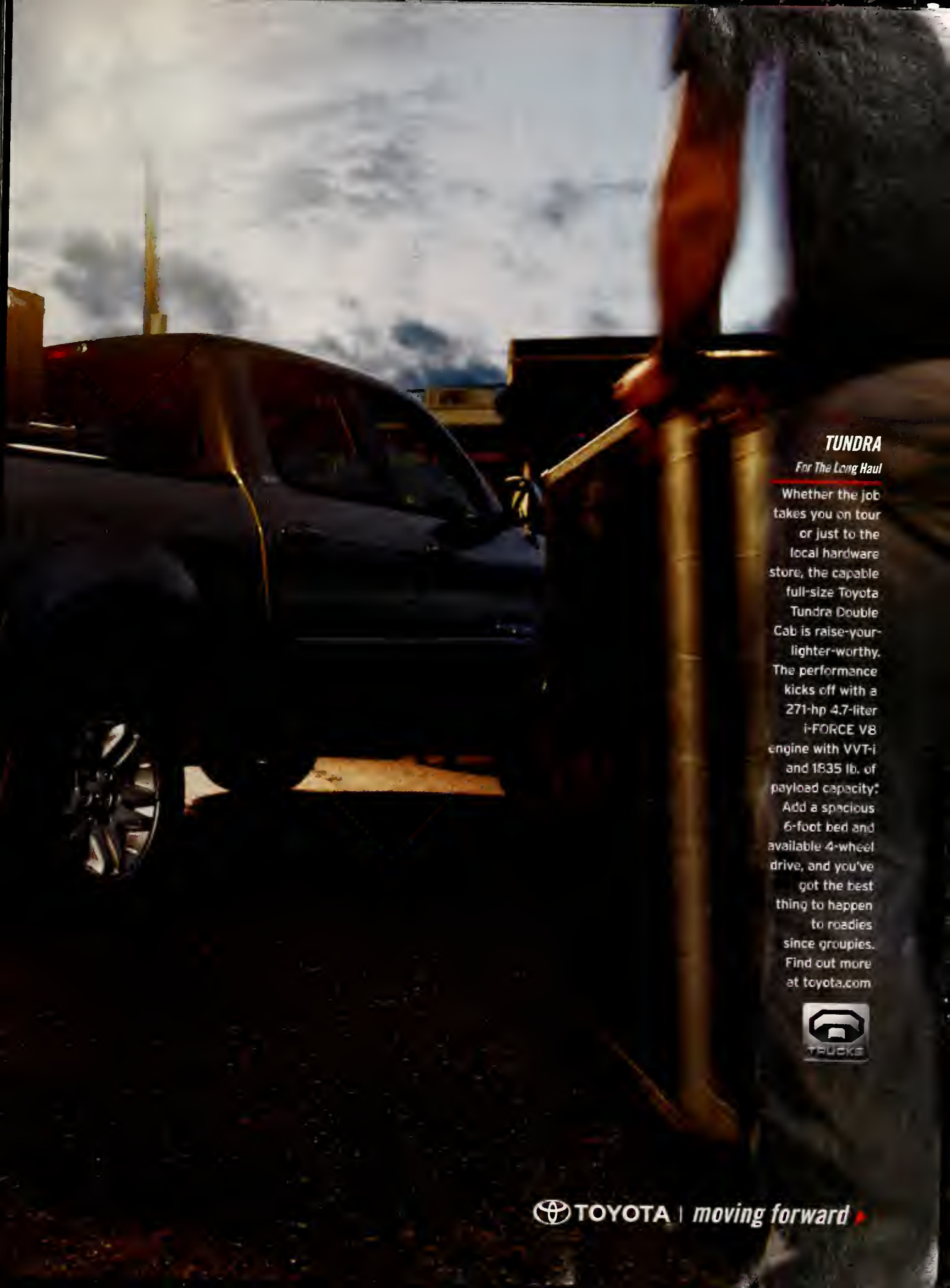
This theme for the 78th National FFA Convention proved to be timely, especially for Aaron Catalanatto and other FFA members affected by last summer's hurricanes.





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Publisher Julie Adams
Editor Erich Gaukel
Design Director Alfred Casciato
Communications Kristy Meyer, Amy Swain
Operations Sarah Hess
Production Manager Donna Cox
Research Director Jim Rieck
Contributors Chris Hayhurst, Stephen Regenold, Eric Rowley

Editorial P.O. Box 68960
 Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
 Phone: 317/802-4235
 Fax: 317/802-5235
 E-mail: newhorizons@ffa.org

Advertising Glenn Sims, National Sales Manager
 FFA New Horizons
 1100 W31244 Highway LD
 Mukwonago, WI 53149-9301
 Phone 262/363-9346
 Fax 262/363-7894
 E-mail: gsims@farmprogress.com
 Laurie Joecks, Advertising Assistant
 Phone: 262/363-9346
 E-mail: ljoecks@farmprogress.com
 Renee Weston, Administrative Assistant
 Phone: 630/462-2334
 E-mail: rweston@farmprogress.com

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On the cover: Aaron Catalanatto, a member of the Ponchatoula FFA Chapter in Louisiana, at the 2005 National FFA Convention.
 Photo by Eric Rowley.



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FFA Talk

What's on your mind?

The **BIG** question:

What is the most rewarding part of being an FFA member?

The most rewarding part of being an FFA member is knowing that you can change not only your life and accomplish anything, but that you can help teach and change others' lives, too. I have so much pride in being an FFA member and I would not trade it for the world. I have learned so much and grown as a person. Now I can take what I have learned and pass it to others. You know that everything you do is worth it and very rewarding when you look up and see your parents, siblings, FFA advisors and fellow FFA members have a look of pride and joy on their faces.

Ashley Ford
Coolville, Ohio

The most rewarding part is all of the life lessons one will learn in FFA. I have great ag teachers and a very involved chapter and that makes all the difference. Whether it's CDEs or SAEs, you're learning about responsibility, competition, victory, challenge and loss. I cannot express my feelings or the passion I feel for the organization, but I try to make a difference in everything I do because of it.

Katherine Wohl
San Antonio, Texas

What's the most rewarding part of being an FFA member for you? Send your responses to the address below.

Address all correspondence to:
FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960
e-mail: newhorizons@ffa.org
web: www.ffa.org

Show us your sign!

Is there an FFA emblem painted on your neighbor's barn? Or outside your school? Or maybe there's a sign that says "FFA" on the highway just outside of town. Wherever it happens to be, we want to see it. Snap a photo and send it to us at the address at the bottom of this page. Please be sure to include a brief written description.



The North Montgomery FFA Chapter in Crawfordsville, Indiana, recently installed a sign (above) to decorate their newly remodeled greenhouses. The sign proudly displays the FFA mission statement. Gathered around the sign are (standing, from left) chapter officers Staci Gill, Emily Burton, Brady Van Hook and Grant Lough; (seated, from left) Amber Bedwell, Sayde Rayburn, Brian Jackson, Emily Ballard and Mitch Smith; and (lying down) Greg Wilcox. Submitted by the North Montgomery FFA Chapter



This picture is taken by my dad, Eduardo Rodriguez, as it hangs on the entrance to our home. Eduardo was an FFA member at Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena, Texas, in the late '70s and early '80s. Now in 2005, 25 years later and about 300 miles south, I, Eddica Olivia Rodriguez, am a member of the Raymondville High School FFA Chapter. Since my dad and I have the same first initial, I am able to proudly display the same sign that was used years ago by him. Submitted by Olivia Rodriguez, Raymondville FFA Chapter, Texas

Blue & Gold

News from the National FFA Center

Changing of the guard

The 2005-06 National FFA Officer Team embarks on a year of service

The national FFA convention always concludes with the much-anticipated installation of the new national officer team. It's also a time to say farewell to the outgoing officers, all of whom delivered powerful retirement addresses during the convention that related their personal experiences to the larger world around us.

In his remarks, Brian Hogue told about how he always has tended to look ahead, to getting a truck, to going to college or to finding the perfect wife. Upon reflection he realized something was missing. "Folks," he said, "the problem is not that tomorrow might not come; the issue is that tomorrow will come and that makes today so very important. It's how we live our next 24 hours that will define our future forever. Our today defines our tomorrow."

The new officers already have embarked on their year of service. Each officer will travel 100,000 miles, visit and meet with FFA members, agriculture teachers and FFA supporters, as well as top business, government and education leaders. They will provide personal growth and leadership training for students, set policies and promote agricultural literacy. ●

The 2005-06 National FFA Officers, clockwise from top left: Ryan Peterson (Mich.), eastern region vice president; Stuart Joy (N.M.), western region v.p.; Anita Estes (Neb.), central region v.p.; Jessie Geib (S.D.), secretary; Travis Jett (Okla.), president; Erica Der, (Fla.), southern region v.p.



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FFA Faces

At the national FFA convention

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Chevrolet, the sponsor of FFA Faces, will award FFA members featured here a heavy-duty backpack. Nominate yourself or a fellow FFA member by sending us a letter with the following details about the nominee: name, grade, address, phone number, e-mail address, FFA and academic achievements and extracurricular activities. To be considered, submissions **MUST** include a color photo. Send to: FFA Faces, FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 68660, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Or e-mail to: newhorizons@ffa.org

South Dakota



BRETT ALEXANDER

A member of the Woonsocket FFA Chapter, Brett is the chapter vice president and formerly served as chapter treasurer. He's been involved in career development events (CDEs) such as natural resources, livestock judging and ag sales. He enjoys operating the combine and tractor on his father's corn and soybean farm. He plans to attend South Dakota State University.

Alaska



HANNAH HARRISON

This FFA state vice president is a member of the Homer FFA Chapter. She's a senior in high school, but because of her advanced standing, she's also a freshman at Alaska Pacific University. Because of her busy school schedule, she performs her state officer duties on weekends. Hannah enjoys traveling. In addition to her trip to Louisville, she has competed in Envirothon events in West Virginia and Missouri.

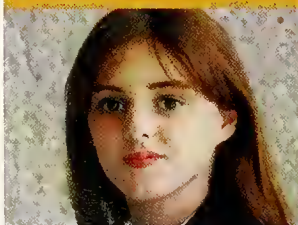
Missouri



TYLER FRANCIS

An agriculture business major at the University of Missouri, Tyler is a member of the Norborne FFA Chapter, where he served as chapter reporter, treasurer and president. He's also a former area officer and a past winner of the national FFA proficiency award in grain production (placement). As a proficiency winner he earned a trip to Costa Rica, where he and other members toured the agriculturally diverse nation.

Arkansas



KAYLAN DUGGAN

A freshman member of the Lake Hamilton FFA Chapter, Kaylan shows Duroc hogs and recently had a reserve grand champion at the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show. She says she came to the convention to "come meet new people," and her goals are to become chapter president and a country singer. Kaylan painted birdhouses for her chapter's auction and helped out with the chapter fruit sale.

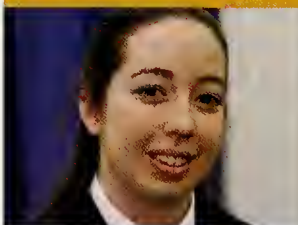
Ohio



STEPHEN FREEMAN

A member of the Houston FFA Chapter, Stephen came to the convention in Louisville in a bus with 15 students from his chapter, plus members from two other FFA chapters. He's active in livestock judging (he says the sheep part is the hardest) and fundraisers. Stephen says his FFA chapter will soon begin a community service project where they will clean up local parks. He enjoys hunting in his free time.

Pennsylvania



KATHY ZIMMERMAN

As the FFA state reporter and a national convention delegate, Kathy spent most of the convention working, either at meetings or at her state's booth in the Hall of States. A member of the Cloister FFA Chapter, she has been very active in public speaking CDEs. For her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, she works with 590 cows on her parents' dairy farm.

California



JOSÉ CORTEZ

This Reedley FFA Chapter president tries to be involved in just about everything going on his chapter. He keeps busy with officer retreats, chapter meetings and chores on the high school farm, where he and other students work hard to grow apples, peaches, nectarines and grapes. He hopes to study landscape architecture next year at the University of California at Davis or Pomona.

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National Officer Q&A

Meet National FFA President Travis Jett

Travis, what is your role as national FFA president?

My roles will include everything from visiting industry partners to working with the National FFA Board of Directors, but the role that I'm most looking forward to is interacting with FFA members. Hopefully, in the words of FFA Creed author E.M. Tiffany, "I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task."

You'll do a lot of speaking this year, so what are some tricks you've learned to help you become better at speaking in front of others?

First of all, everyone gets nervous before they speak. If my pre-speech nerves ever go away, I will probably be one boring guy. With that said, the best advice I have ever gotten to combat nerves is to scrunch your toes in your shoes. It accomplishes the same thing as ringing your hands or biting your nails, but no one knows!

Why is the supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) a key part of the FFA experience?

I have found I can only read about a topic so much before I need to try it. SAEs give students the chance to "try it." My SAE built on what I learned in the classroom and taught me the value of planning, discipline and management, which created more opportunities for me in the FFA.



A native of Laverne, Oklahoma, 20-year-old Travis is a member of the Laverne FFA Chapter and is a junior at Oklahoma State University.

Your SAE program involved beef production. Even though you've focused on one specific area (beef), how has the experience broadened your understanding of agriculture?
Everyone in agriculture seeks to provide America with the greatest food, fiber and natural resources supply in the world. We all face many of the same challenges. Through my SAE, I realized that the beef industry depends on many other sectors of agriculture. By understanding the big picture of agriculture, I can be more effective in beef production.

The national FFA convention moves to Indianapolis this year. How will the convention be different than last year?

I am definitely excited about the national FFA convention in Indianapolis. The atmosphere will be tremendous in the midst of downtown, with the street from the convention hall to the career show being painted blue and closed to traffic. Get ready for a whole new convention experience as we make history in the move to Indy.

Travis's 5 secrets of success

1. Take advantage of the small opportunities. He who does well with a few things will be given much.
2. We have been blessed with many talents. Use them.
3. Serving others is the most fulfilling thing we can do.
4. Appreciate those around you (especially your FFA advisor!).
5. Do what you enjoy. If you don't, life isn't much fun.

What are some of your goals for the upcoming year?

My greatest goal is to facilitate FFA at the chapter level. The local level is the basis of our organization, and that's where premier leadership, personal growth and career success are achieved. I also hope to see FFA continue to become as diverse as the agricultural industry, welcoming all students to the possibilities of agricultural education.

How is the Seeds of Hope hurricane rebuilding campaign coming along?

At national convention, a check for \$528,024 was presented to those affected by the hurricanes. Since that time we have continued to hear stories of chapters rebuilding and communities that are getting back on their feet due to the work of FFA members. Please continue to keep our fellow members affected by the hurricanes in your thoughts.

If you had a crystal ball, what would you see yourself doing 10 years from now?

In 10 years I would love to be living in northwest Oklahoma. I hope to start a family, practice law and be a fourth-generation rancher in Slapout (yes, that is a real town). ●

FFA timeline

13	joined Laverne FFA Chapter
14	attended first state convention
15	named chapter Star Greenhand
	first district creed speaking CDE
	elected chapter vice president
16	received chapter degree
	re-elected chapter vice president
17	elected chapter president
	won district extemporaneous public speaking CDE
18	elected to state office
	received state degree
	lost state extemporaneous public speaking CDE
	enrolled at Oklahoma State University
19	elected state president
	received American diploma
20	elected national president

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78th
National FFA Convention

Living to Serve

More than 52,000 FFA members and guests journeyed to Louisville for the 78th National FFA Convention, a four-day event celebrating FFA members' longstanding commitment to service and leadership

By Erich Gaukel

Perhaps no national FFA convention theme in recent memory has been more timely or appropriate than the one that echoed throughout Freedom Hall for four days last October: "Living to Serve."

With the memories of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma still fresh in the minds of everyone—especially those whose lives were directly affected by the storms—the theme helped set the tone of the convention.

More than 52,000 FFA members and guests made the trip to Louisville, Kentucky, for competitions, keynote addresses, banquets, workshops, career exploration, delegate sessions and much more.

National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case, speaking to a full house of more than 15,000 attendees at the convention's opening session, inau-

gurated the annual gathering with these words: "This week you have an opportunity to change your world and to discover ways that you can prepare yourself to serve others. . . . Make the most of it, and when you go through this week, know this. I am proud of you. I believe in you. And I expect great things from all of you. Now let's have a great convention!"

WORDS OF WISDOM

The convention keynote speakers delivered powerful messages about service, courage, laughter and leadership. They used humor, artwork, stories and even their disabilities as tools to connect with FFA members.

Amanda Gore, an Australian lifestyle expert, had FFA members roaring with laughter when she made them turn to the people sitting next to them to say such things as, "I'm going to put the sparkle back into your

eyes." She encouraged FFA members to stay away from people she calls "energy suckers" and to laugh a lot, because it releases endorphins, which "bust stress and keep you in a good frame of mind so you can lead others and serve others better."

Keynote speaker and artist Sam Glenn ran onto the stage with thumping music filling the hall. He was joined by another artist, and for 10 minutes they frantically drew huge chalk illustrations of the Statue of Liberty and an eagle. Sweating and out of breath, Glenn began his address by explaining that the artworks were symbols of leadership. He went on to describe one very important aspect of leadership: "I believe great leaders are people who demonstrate great courage."

When he described his Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Glenn laughed about it and told FFA members some of the silly things it caused him to do, like when he went to a McDonald's drive-through, ordered, paid and drove off without his food. Glenn told FFA members that they need to have courage to face fear and that sometimes "We need courage to laugh at ourselves."

Bill Irwin, a former FFA member, opened his address by saying: "Wow, what a great-looking group. It's certainly a pleasure to be with you today. Don't you think that's an unusual way for a blind guy to start a speech?"

Irwin knows how to laugh at himself and his physical limitations. But when he and his Seeing Eye dog spent 256 days hiking the entire Appalachian Trail, he didn't laugh much. In fact, he says didn't enjoy it at all. He hiked the trail as a way of repaying God for saving him from a life of unhealthy living, punctuated by alcoholism, smoking, high blood pressure and unhappy marriages. He sought help and eventually regained the character he first developed in FFA. He left FFA members to ponder these words: "Perseverance is a character trait that all highly effective people have. Never ever give up."

"IT'S UNBELIEVABLE"

At the FFA National Agricultural Career Show, Brittany Daniel stopped at the Hall of States, a special section of booths and displays created by state FFA associations. A high school senior and a member of the Wake Forest-Rolesville FFA Chapter in North Carolina, Brittany stopped to sign her name on one of three large plywood letters that spelled "FFA."

"This is my first time, and I'm having an awesome time so far," she said. "I've only been to one session so far, but it's been awesome. It's unbelievable how many people there are and how many people are as much involved as you are in the club and have as much devotion and love for one thing as you do. It's just amazing to be here with 50,000 other people who love the same thing you do."

Nearby, Dray Rivet, Jr., sat on a table at the Louisiana FFA booth he and a friend were hosting. In his hand he held a tiny

alligator skull, which drew plenty of curious onlookers. "You keep your hand right here behind the alligator, and when they go to touch it," he explained with a laugh, "you move it on 'em and they jump."

A member of the Central Lafourche FFA Chapter, Dray raises and shows Brahman cattle. Even though he lives just south of New Orleans, Dray said his area suffered some wind damage, but avoided the worst of the storm.

NEW HORIZONS

Jasmine Medley, a member of the W.B. Saul FFA Chapter in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, walked through the career show with a specific purpose—to find information about college veterinary programs. She had encouraging visits with representatives from colleges in Maryland and Alabama. The thought of leaving home to attend college didn't bother her. "I want to go out and explore the world before I become an adult," she said. "I really have no problem going anywhere—whether it's California, Maine, Alaska or Hawaii."

We caught up with Mark Palmer and Dan Luckey, both members of the Newton FFA Chapter in New Jersey, as they were about to compete against FFA chapters from across the United States in the environmental and natural resources career development event (CDE). They were looking forward to the challenge, but knew it wasn't going to be easy. "There's just so much involved," Mark said. "We're just overwhelmed."

It's experiences like this, Mark added, that make FFA worthwhile: "You have more power, I guess you could say, because you just feel confident about yourself and it builds leadership skills."

In his first address as national FFA president, Travis Jett encouraged members at the last general session to abide by the "Living to Serve" convention theme: "Here at the 78th National FFA Convention, let's recommit to service. Each one of us has so much to give. It's when we truly give a little bit of ourselves that we are living to serve." ●



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From Louisiana to Louisville

Aaron Catalanatto's long road to becoming a national
agricultural proficiency award winner

By Erich Gaukel



Photo: Eric Rowley

Several months removed from Hurricane Katrina, it's widely known that residents of Mississippi and Louisiana and neigh-

boring states took the beating of a lifetime. With hundreds of reported deaths, thousands still missing and hundreds of thousands of people

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displaced, the human suffering was massive.

Today, in towns like Ponchatoula, Louisiana, about 45 miles northeast of New Orleans, things are still difficult, and that's putting it mildly. Donna Winburn, one of the Ponchatoula FFA advisors, explained it this way: "Our whole world has changed completely."

Even though the homes in Ponchatoula escaped destruction, the series of events in the wake of Katrina left locals struggling to get by. First, the area suffered wind damage, and for two weeks residents had no electricity or means of communicating with the outside world, as phone lines and cell towers failed. Families ran into financial problems for a variety of reasons: They lost their jobs; they gave money to help friends and relatives, some of them arriving from the evacuated cities of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish; or, they were spending cash on survival essentials. An example: Because fuel prices jumped after the storm, it cost \$25 a day to run a generator for a refrigerator.

PLANTING DONE

Aaron Catalanatto and his family ran into many of these same issues, but things were made more difficult by the fact that his father had just left to serve with the military in Iraq. That left Aaron, his brother and mother to contend with damage, the planting of crops and the trip to the national FFA convention, where Aaron was scheduled to compete as a national agricultural proficiency award finalist for the second straight year.

For Aaron and other Ponchatoula FFA members, fall is the usual time to start raising money to pay for trips to the convention. At this particular time, when money was tight everywhere and everyone was busy just trying to survive, funding the trip was going to be a stretch.

Aaron eventually put together enough money to pay for the trip, jumped on a plane and found himself at the convention. "We just got finished planting fields," Aaron said, after he had arrived at the convention and had gone through the competitive interview process. "We were rushing

and rushing and rushing because the storm backed us up big time."

Without much time to prepare for the convention, Aaron tried not to worry about coming in cold. Because he went through the same process at last year's convention, he had some confidence. Looking back on the interview he had just completed with the judges, Aaron seemed relaxed. "I just did the best I could do," he said.

Later that night, as he stood on the Freedom Hall stage, along with the other finalists, he waited to learn if he had won. Moments later, he heard his name announced and he was the 2005 national proficiency award winner in the aquaculture (placement) division.

BACK HOME

As a college student, Aaron doesn't spend much time back at the high school. But he stays involved enough to know of some of the difficulties they're facing. After reopening a couple of weeks following the hurricane, the school suddenly had a hundred new students.

"It's packed," Aaron explained. "It's a whole lot different. . . . Some of our classrooms aren't even big enough to hold all the people that came in."

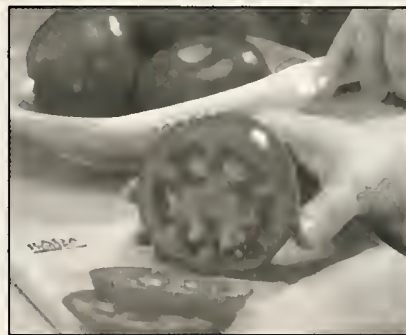
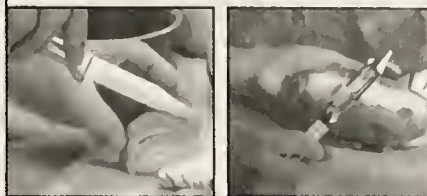
For the school's new students, FFA advisor Alice DuBois started a program to secure new backpacks and school supplies. The program took off and now reaches students all over Louisiana and Mississippi. Donations have poured in from 49 states, from MTV and from actor Bruce Willis' foundation, which sent 6,000 backpacks. At the time of the convention, the chapter had distributed 14,000 backpacks stuffed with supplies.

Meanwhile, Aaron continues to work part-time at a tilapia fish farm, where he backwashes filters, constructs systems, feeds and cares for the fish and prepares fish for shipment all over the world.

He attends Southeastern Louisiana University and plans to transfer to Louisiana State University to study wildlife and fisheries.

His goal: "I really want to be a wildlife and fisheries agent." ●

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Convention photo gallery

The new national FFA officers, including (from left) President Travis Jett, Secretary Jessie Geib, Western Region Vice President Stuart Joy, Southern Region Vice President Erica Der, Central Region Vice President Anita Estes and Eastern Region Vice President Ryan Peterson. The team used the oversized gavel to bring the convention to a close on Saturday afternoon.



FFA jackets awaited purchase and embroidery at the FFA mall.



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78th
National FFA Convention

Convention delegates, who sit front and center at the general sessions, dance to the energetic music played between sessions.



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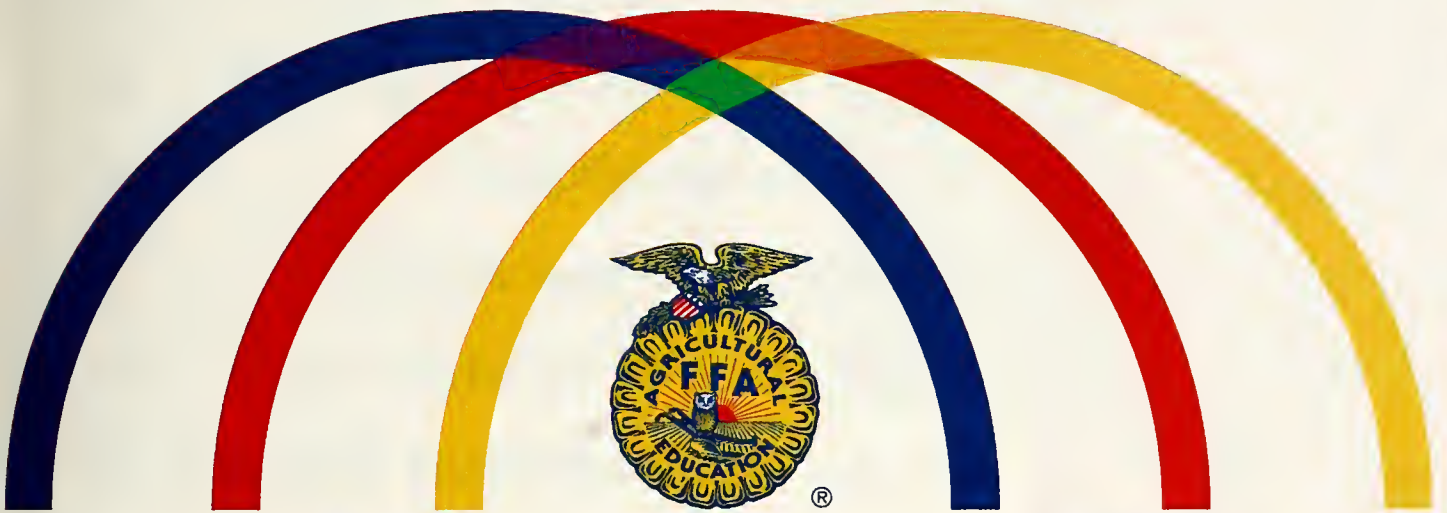
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The Impact

Indiana FFA



LIVING TO SERVE

National FFA Week

National FFA Week is Feb. 18-25! Don't forget to celebrate and practice living to serve!

Find out what one chapter is doing to help hurricane victims in the Gulf Coast. Page J

Find out about the Indiana FFA's largest sponsor! Page F



Indiana State Staff

Craig Rehich

Association Executive Director

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Foundation Executive Director

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Stephanie Warner

Program Specialist

Noelle Dunkel

Magazine Editor/Designer

2005-2006 State

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Sentinel

Indiana FFA Association

Room 229, State House

Indianapolis, IN 46204

317-232-9171 (voice)

317-232-9121 (fax)

www.indianaffa.org

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DATES TO KNOW

January

- 20-22 Leadership Development Workshop, Indiana FFA Center
- 28 State Meats and Dairy Foods CDE

February

- 1 Nominating Committee Applications Due
- 13 State Degree and District Proficiencies Due
- 15 National FFA Scholarships Due
- 19-25 National FFA Week
- 28 State Degree and Proficiency Scoring Workshop, Indiana FFA Leadership Center

STATIONED BY THE FLAG

Melinda Salmons, 2005-2006 State Reporter

Fun Facts about Melinda

Parents: John and Debie Salmons; Mathew and Christina Richey

Siblings: 5 brothers and 5 sisters

FFA Chapter: Whitko

Advisors: Christina Nixon and Richard Carr

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Favorite Animal: Monkey

Favorite Color: Purple

Favorite Song: *When you Say Nothing at All*, Allison Krause

Favorite Sport: Baseball

Favorite TV Show: *Friends*

Favorite Quote: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Nickname: Sunshine



2005-2006 State Officer Team voted Melinda to be: Most likely to get lost - anywhere

Future plans: Attend Bethel College to study secondary english education.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT Melinda...

"Melinda is one of the biggest sweethearts I know and I miss her so much! Just being around her makes me smile."

>Korey Flinn, friend

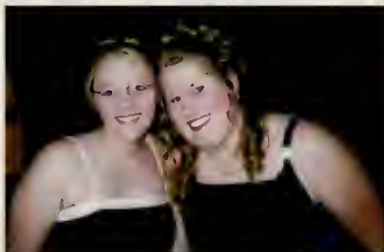


"My daughter is a sweet girl. She stays focused on things when she knows what she wants to accomplish. She smiles a lot so it makes it easy for people to listen to her, although she sometimes does talk too fast for old folks like me. When she was little, I teased her about being a "Valley Girl" because she talked so fast and always said things such as "like, you know". She's a real cutie!"

>John Salmons, father

"Melinda is one of the hardest working and most dedicated students that I have had the opportunity to have in the classroom and in the FFA program. Her perpetual kindness and infectious gratitude truly made Mindi a valuable asset to the Whitko FFA program. I am very proud of her dedication and willingness to step forward to help lead the Indiana FFA. Mindi is truly a profound leader with the congeniality that everyone adores."

>Christina Nixon, advisor



State Officers

Beef... Its whats for dinner

by Nathan Lehman, State Sentinel



Kelly Smoker, president and a member of the Warsaw FFA chapter, grew into her SAE project, Beef Production Placement. She started her SAE when she turned 15 and was hired by her father to work for the Eagle Creek Cattle Company.

"I help with the day to day operations of the farm, from feeding the cattle a balanced diet to scouting out new cattle to improve the quality of our herd." Kelly is a critical part of the cattle operation helping with tagging and vaccinating the cattle, breeding of cows using arti-



cial insemination, and is developing a new strategies for promoting Eagle Creek cattle using the internet to get their name out. "I am starting to develop new ways for us to get our name out, and I hope to have the website developed and up and running by this winter."



Kelly also exhibits the cattle she helps raises. "I am a member of the American Highland Cattle Association and the American Chianina Cattle Association. I have also exhibited cattle at the Hoosier Beef Congress in Indianapolis and at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado and I use these shows to help promote Eagle Creek's club calf operation."

Serving as chapter sentinel and president, Kelly has served as a guiding light for members of all ages, coordinating and organizing chapter parties, fundraisers and community awareness programs such as the



Young McDonald's Farm. She has participated in numerous activities and competed in the livestock judging contest and was on the team that qualified for the national contest in Virginia. Kelly also competed in the parliamentary procedure career development event team that placed

first at the district level.

Kelly is dedicated to her community and active in her school. She is a member of the National Honor Society, 4-H, participated in the Light the Night Cancer Walk and she is an active member of the Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church. She is still undecided on the college that she will attend next fall. She has narrowed her choices down to Purdue University for Farm Management or Grace College for Elementary Education.

What's your favorite CDE?

Nathan Irrgang, Sophomore
Union Country High School



"I enjoy the Small Engine CDE. I enjoy building and gaining a better understanding of

how engines work. Bethann Marker has been a role model for me, her knowledge and skill in working on engines has amazed me and led me to trying out this CDE."

Addison Lopp, Junior
Frontier High School



"My favorite CDE is Live-stock Judging. I enjoy judging the animals. You get better and better with every contest. With every contest you

get better, allowing you the opportunity to win a contest, but it takes a lot of hard work and experience to achieve that. It is that challenge that I enjoy the most."

Andrew Ferrel, Senior
Clinton Central High School



"My favorite CDE is soils judging. It opens up the door for so many career opportunities. It's the only FFA event

where nobody cares how you dress, you have a lot of fun, and it gives you a chance to meet other FFA member from across the state."

Jon Donohue, Junior
Owen Valley High School



"I enjoy the forestry judging career development event. Before in joined FFA, I never knew the difference between trees. This

event has opened my eyes and has taught me the difference between different types of trees."

Student Spotlight

Investing in the future

By: Jessica Quear, State Northern Region Vice President

The Indiana Soybean Board and Indiana Soybean Growers Association, Indiana FFA Foundation supporters, work hand in hand. Although they have two different names, they do work together to improve the viability of Indiana soybean farms and industry partners. The Soybean Board focuses primarily on research, development, and marketing of soybean base products. The Soybean Growers Association deals with legislative issues and policies that affect soybean farmers. These two organizations combined are a primary aid to the soybean industry and the local farmer.

Full Name: Indiana Soybean Board and Indiana Soybean Growers Association

Location of Headquarters: Indianapolis, Indiana

Number of Full Time Employees: 8

Years in Business: The first fully staffed office was established in 1991.

History of Company: The National Soybean Growers Association was formed on September 3, 1920, when over one thousand farmers attended the first "Cornbelt Soybean Conference" on a farm owned by the Fouts brothers near Camden, Ind. That organization, which was established in Indiana, became the American Soybean Association in 1929. In October of 1966, the Indiana Soybean Growers Association was incorporated. In 1991 the Indiana Soybean Development Council resulted from Congress passing the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act. The Council later changed its name to the Indiana Soybean Board.

Approximate number of employees with a FFA background: Chris Novak, Executive Director, served as a State Officer in Iowa from 1982 to 1984; and Belinda Puetz, Director of Marketing, was a State Officer for Indiana in 1985 to 1986.

Length of partnership: they have been building a relationship with Indiana FFA since 1995.

How does the FFA prepare students for life after high school?

FFA gives students the opportunity to build a relationship with many organizations and businesses and sets up a networking system for them. It also teaches those important tools of how businesses and non-profit organizations operate. Through the different programs FFA offers, students are taught marketing, planning, and management skills.

If a student were interested in a career with the Soybean Board or similar organization, what advice would you give them that would help them prepare for that career?

Students need to have a good working knowledge of agriculture and the soybean industry—including everything from crop inputs, to soybean production, processing, and consumer marketing. Agricultural organization employees need to understand government policies and procedures as well as understanding how associations with boards of directors operate. They need to possess qualities of a great listener, have strong organizational skills, and be able to multitask when the need arises. As far as an educational background, agricultural economics or agricultural communication is desired. Although an agricultural background is beneficial, there are many opportunities for individuals with a basic business degree.

Why does the Soybean Board invest in FFA?

Indiana's soybean farmers are making an investment in the Indiana FFA because they see both short-term and long-term return on this investment. In the short-term, FFA is providing vital leadership training to soybean farmer leaders, who will benefit from refresher courses in public speaking and parliamentary procedure. In the long-term, the Soybean Board recognizes that today's FFA students are tomorrow's farmers and agricultural industry leaders. Building a stronger relationship today with these young leaders will ensure a stronger future for the soybean organizations.

Are there internships available and how?

Internships are not available on a regular basis, but there are some internships available throughout the year in specials projects and circumstances.

Other than grants, the Indiana FFA's largest donor for the upcoming year is the Indiana Soybean Board and the Indian Soybean Growers Association. The Indian Soybean Board has graciously donated \$20,000 and the Indiana Soybean Growers Association has generously donated \$5,000. This donation will be used towards many areas within the FFA. It will help sponsor plaques, banners, and partial travel for Agriculture Issues Forum Finalists. During the 2006 National FFA Convention it will help sponsor a booth as well as general publicity. This sponsorship also covers four weeks of State Officer travel as they go around the state visiting chapters. State Officers will provide training to both soybean boards in the areas of parliamentary procedure, time management, and public speaking. The Indiana FFA Organization and Foundation would like to thank the Indiana Soybean Board and Indiana Soybean Growers Association for their support!

Keystones of Leadership

by Melinda Salmons, State Reporter

If it had not been for FFA, I would not be who I am today!" Several people have made that bold statement about our organization. We understand the impact that FFA has on our lives and the lives of those around us, and it is time that we implement a program to ensure that our children will have the same opportunities that we have been blessed with.

To provide long-term stability for Indiana FFA and agricultural education, it will take the efforts of many. In order to state the process of establishing this much-needed stability, we are please to introduce "Keystone of Leadership." This program was developed to provide an avenue of individuals to make a lasting impact on FFA members today, and for years to come. "Keystone of Leadership" is focused around working with individuals to establish planned gifts to first fulfil their personal needs, and secondly provide for some needs of the Indiana FFA.

"Keystone Of Leadership" is focused around working with individuals to establish planned gifts to first fulfill their personal needs and secondly provide for some needs of the Indiana FFA.

Regardless of your age, economical status, or even gender, you can made an impact that will influence our organization for years to come. Can you image providing more meaningful and enhanced leadership conferences / camps while offering them to members at no cost? Or how about providing permanent support for the State FFA Convention? Or how about providing support to permanently fund much needed FFA agricultural education staffing positions?

If you would like to discuss potential ways you can be a part of "Keystone Of Leadership", please contact Indiana FFA Foundation Executive Director Brian Buchanan at (317) 878-4178, brianwbuchanan@yahoo.com.

Remember, many different people make up this organization, and many people make our organization strong! You can continue to make a difference for many years to come!

Career Development Events

by Bruce Cooley, State President

It is almost that time again! The time is now to start preparing for those spring Career Development Events and with 42 different ones to choose from, how can you not be excited to dive into that new CDE?

Indiana is a very fortunate state as it allows its FFA members to participate in 42 different Career Development Events ranging from Agriculture Communications to Soils Evaluation. These events allow members to gain critical understanding of different career options and different career opportunities that exist in the largest workforce force in the world, Agriculture.

Those CDE's include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Agricultural Communications | Agricultural Issues |
| Agricultural Mechanics | Agricultural Sales |
| Chapter Meeting | Creed Speaking |
| Crops Evaluation | Dairy Evaluation |
| Dairy Foods Evaluation | Dairy Goat Evaluation |
| Demonstrations | Entomology Essay |
| Exhibit | Extemporaneous Speaking |
| Frosh. Extemp. Speaking | Agribusiness Management |
| Practical Forestry | 4-H/FFA Forestry |
| Floriculture | Food Science |
| Frosh. Public Speaking | Horse and Pony |
| Horticulture | Job Interview |
| Livestock Evaluation | Marketing |
| Meats Evaluation | Nursery/Landscape |
| Poultry Evaluation | Prepared Public Speaking |
| Scrapbook | Quiz Bowl |
| Soils Evaluation | Small Engines |
| Talent | Welding |
| Wildlife Habitat | Leadership Ambassador |
| Discovery Degree Public Speaking | Discovery Degree Ag Issues |
| Discovery Degree Demonstration | |

With all of the Career Development Opportunities like this, how could you not find one to fit your interests!

Upcoming dates of importance:

January 20th-22nd, 2005

Leadership Development Workshop

For future information on CDE's or other dates of importance contact either your local FFA advisor or the Indiana FFA website at: www.indianaffa.org



Fun is on of the best ways to describe this advisor. From teaching class to just hanging out, he likes to let the good times roll.

Tom Wallace is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Owen Valley High School, the same school that he graduated from years ago.

After graduating from Owen Valley High School, Wallace knew that he wanted to work in an agricultural field. He attended Purdue University and earned B.S. degrees in Agriculture Education and Animal Science, but he didn't start teaching right away. He decided to continue his education at Indiana University, where he earned a Masters Degree in Secondary Education.

He still wasn't ready to start teaching yet. He got a job working for Purina Mills, where he had a vast array of responsibilities, including Territory Manager, Swine Specialist, Cattle Specialist, Dairy Specialist and Retail Specialist. After eighteen years on the job there, Wallace decided to start teaching high school. His first teaching job was at Brownstown High School, where he taught for four years. Then he moved to Owen Valley; he has been teaching there ever since. Some of his favorite methods of teaching have earned him recognition not only as the 2004 Owen County Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year, but even as the 2003 Agriculture Teacher of the Year.

When asked if he was involved in FFA in high school, Wallace said, "I wasn't.

Let the good times roll

by David Mohler, State Treasurer

College bound students were guided into college prep courses. Agriculture at the time was not considered part of that protocol. I am so pleased the atmosphere has changed."

The remodeled facilities at Owen Valley High School have helped to change that atmosphere. He is now able to teach hands-on labs, which are important to Mr. Wallace's newest classes, which are advanced enough that they can count as college credit. Students planning on going to college can finally count on agriculture classes to help them succeed in post-secondary education.

Wallace is also involved in many organizations outside of FFA. He is affiliated with the Nazarene church in Spencer and is a member of many agriculture teachers' associations. The local Farm Bureau is also proud to have Wallace as a member. All of these organizations would surely agree with Wallace's words "Agriculture Education is playing an active role in training and developing young people to lure new technology enterprises to the state of Indiana."

Wallace has been playing an active role in helping to grow his chapter for the four years he has been teaching there. The 65 high school students and 30 middle school students in the Owen Valley FFA chapter have worked with Wallace to make their chapter one of the Top 10 Chapters in Indiana for the past two years. Keep on giving fun, Mr. Wallace!

Big Owl

Indiana FFA bands together to help hurricane victims

FFA members have always been there to help others in need, especially when a natural disaster occurs. Now is one of those times. The National FFA has instituted a program called Seeds of Hope. The purpose is to have chapters help with the disaster relief through fundraising or other creative ideas. It is understood that many chapters are already doing projects and that is awesome!.

Members of the South Newton FFA have thought of an idea to do a statewide project. The goal is to raise money and show everyone in the devastated areas that the Indiana FFA really wants to help and that we care about them. The goal is to unite the whole state to raise money for supplies or monetary donations to the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The plan is to sell Indiana FFA wristbands, like the LIVEStrong wristbands. The South Newton FFA has volunteered to head up the project. They are going to take care of all ordering and mailing out to the different districts and chapters.

"I wanted to help out the FFA members affected by Hurricane Katrina and thought that one way to get those members the most help was to have a statewide project," said chapter president Rob Hays. "Then, I came up with the INDIANA FFA wristbands, to raise money for the Seeds of Hope campaign. So far chapters and FFA members from around the state have raised over \$3,000... it would be great to double this amount."

We need chapters across the state to help sell these bands to members and FFA supporters in their areas. We need your help! Show your support of rebuilding the damaged areas and wear your band proudly. Wearing an Indiana FFA wristband is a small way to show your pride in our organization, while donating to a very important cause at the same time. It is encouraged that bracelets are sold as a unit to chapters rather than to individual members.

Currently, an estimated 120 FFA chapters and schools, 5,000 students and their families, and about 150 agricultural education teachers have experienced severe damage or total destruction to their homes, facilities and school projects, including human and personal property loss. With "Living to Serve" as part of our motto, we can't turn down this opportunity to assist other states and fill their obvious needs. Let's unite together to show our compassion... let's live to serve!



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Quantity: _____

Cost: \$2 per bracelet, \$1.30 - \$1.50 goes to the hurricane relief

Please mail orders to:

South Newton FFA

c/o Rob Hays

13102 S. 50 E.

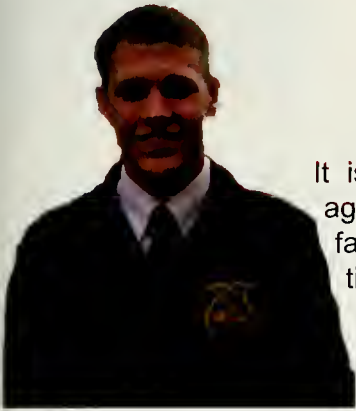
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Or email at rob_ffa@yahoo.com or storeys@newton.k12.in.us

Any questions please contact at the above emails.

President's Message

GOAL SETTING FOR 2006



It is that time of the year again for those all too famous New Year's Resolutions. Now don't worry, this year is going to be different. The resolutions will actually last this time.

They are going to be strong enough and thought through enough to allow all of us to reach the goals and we can do it like this...

There are a multitude of things that are involved in making effective goals. The best way that I know is a form called SMART. Now to some of you, this may sound a little funny or you may have already heard of it, but it does work.

There are five different steps to this amazingly effective process. They are:

SPECIFIC

MEASURABLE

ACHIEVABLE

RELEVANT

TIME DIMENSIONED

Contrary to popular belief this isn't that hard to do. Everything is broken down into five simple steps. All we have to do is answer the questions.

SPECIFIC-

Does your statement contain clear and precise wording? In other words, make sure that your goal is written in such a way that it is very specific to what you want out of the goal.

MEASURABLE-

Does the statement have ways to measure your goal? This could be numbers, a timeline, or even a scope.

ACHIEVABLE-

Is the goal obtainable in terms of time and of resources? Can we "Achieve" this?

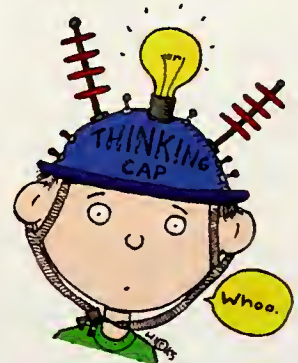
RELEVANT-

Does this goal reflect what we stand for or what we want to accomplish? This is as simple as it sounds, but if the answer to this question is no, we must revise the goal.

TIME DIMENSIONED-

Is the project deadline clear and specific? Put some challenging timelines on goals and make sure that you have an "Achievable" timeline on the goal.

By following these simple steps, all of us can develop very "SMART" goals for our future and maybe that New Years Resolution may last longer than January 3rd this year!



STRAIN your Brain

FFA Week is coming up. This is a week where FFA members can bring awareness to the community about the FFA and its mission. FFA members can do special activities throughout the week to thank supporters and bring awareness to their school and community.

FFA members live by a motto that exemplifies progress through hard work. The last line, Living to Serve, it also the theme for the 2006 National FFA Week. Held February 18-25, FFA Week is an opportunity for members to highlight their successes and thank those who have continuously supported them.

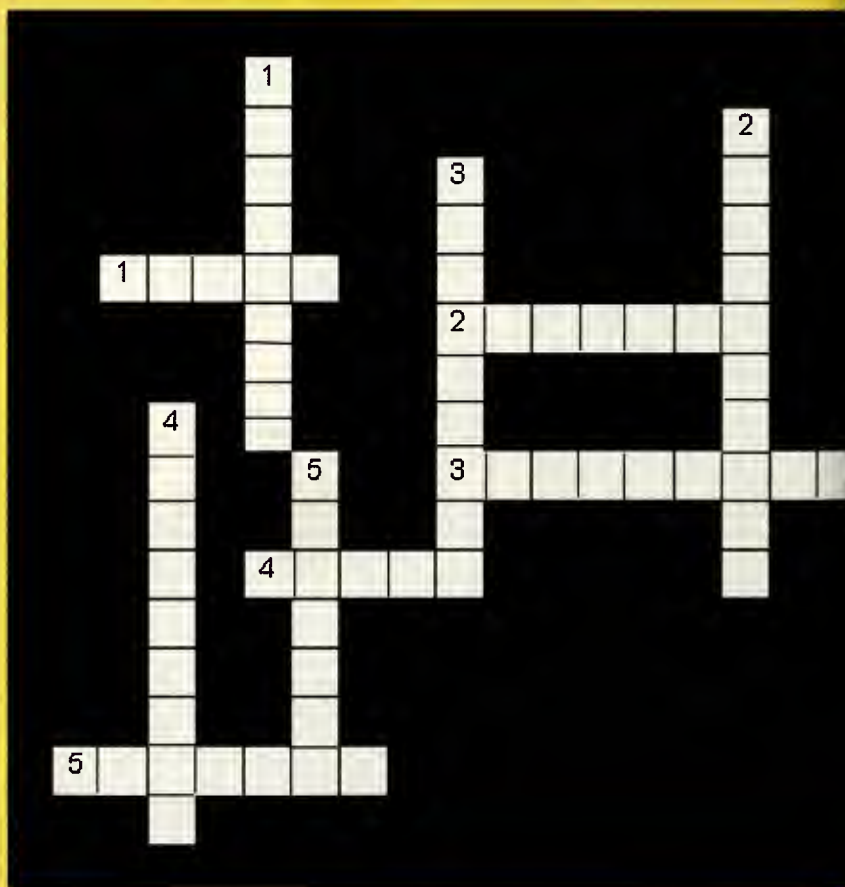
Complete this crossword describing many of the activities that your chapter can participate in.

Down

- 1) Have all FFA members wear their _____ Dress to school one day.
- 2) Develop a program to present during halftime at a _____ game.
- 3) Write a special section in your local _____
- 4) You might cook one morning at a "Teacher Appreciation _____"
- 5) Drive your _____ to school day.

Across

- 1) Hold Farmer Olympics contests while students eat _____ at school.
- 2) Do community _____ activities like landscaping around your school.
- 3) Make _____ for a local restaurant to use under their plates.
- 4) Get the town _____ to sign a proclamation declaring FFA Week in your town.
- 5) Hang FFA Week _____ throughout town.



National FFA Chorus members serenaded the audience.



A school bus from New Jersey brought members to compete.

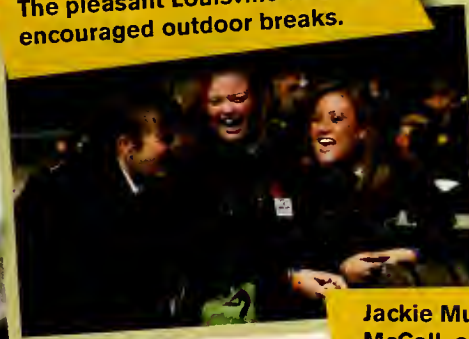


FFA members from New Mexico regroup outside Freedom Hall.

FFA members achieve speed at the career show.



The pleasant Louisville weather encouraged outdoor breaks.

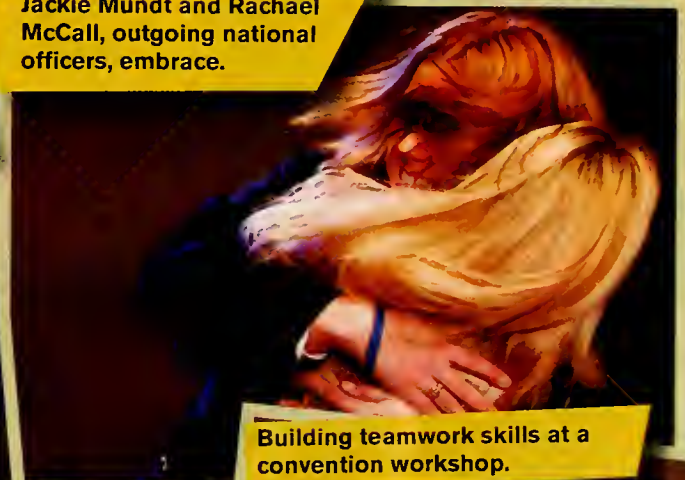


Keynote speaker Amanda Gore gave advice on leadership.

A pair of FFA members talk shop with a college representative.



Jackie Mundt and Rachael McCall, outgoing national officers, embrace.



Keynote speaker Sam Glenn.



Building teamwork skills at a convention workshop.



Keynote speaker Bill Irwin and Seeing Eye dog Colby.



FFA members competed in the livestock evaluation CDE.



By Erich Gaukel

The job hunt begins

Collegiate FFA members look for internships and jobs at the second annual Collegiate Career Expo

78th
National FFA Convention

Jacob Schneider studies plant sciences at the University of Missouri. Like many FFA members, he has specific career goals. "I'd like to work with a chemical or fertilizer company of some sort—possibly a seed company—to work with farmers and try to help them maximize their profits."

For the second straight year, the national FFA convention has

offered students like Jacob the opportunity to attend the Collegiate Career Expo, where members can meet employers to discuss careers and internships in an organized, yet relaxed, setting.

A member of Missouri's Warrenton FFA Chapter, Jacob says his university offers a job fair, but this event was different because it included national companies like Novartis, Pioneer, General Motors, Stihl, Dow Agrosiences, DuPont, Monsanto, ADM and Tyson.

Jim Strauss, national sales manager for Kentucky-based Fastline Publications, says FFA members have the ideal background for positions at Fastline. "We're primarily looking for good sales-oriented people—people who want to have a career in sales and help us build our pages in our publications," he said.

FFA members, he added, "have one of the key components, which is knowledge of the agricultural business." That gives FFA members an edge, because Strauss added this: "Every opportunity we get, we'll hire one of them."

INTERNSHIPS

Physics and chemistry homework couldn't keep Ariela Tutt from driving more than three hours to Louisville just for the expo. She's an animal science major at the University of Tennessee-Martin. Her goal: "I'm looking for internships."

A member of Tennessee's Watertown FFA Chapter, Ariela's dream

job is to engineer nutrients and feedstuffs for cows, and she knows an internship will help her get there. "To get one," she says, "is almost a foot into the door of the industry."

If the internship experiences of FFA members Bridget Lyons and Krystle Ward are any indication, the expo is producing results for those who attend. Bridget and Krystle attended the first expo in 2003. Their visits

with representatives from Kraft Foods led to summer internships. Krystle, a student at California State University, worked at a Kraft pizza production plant in Wisconsin. Bridget, a student at Louisiana State University, interned at a cheese production plant in Minnesota.

Bruce Bishop hoped for similar success. Like Jacob, he attends the University of Missouri. His career goals are less clear, so he hopes an internship will spark his interests: "I don't really know exactly what I want to do when I get out of college, and I figured the best way for me to get experience with that is to do a three-month internship."

For Jacob, the expo was a natural continuation of his FFA experience. "The career development events have definitely let me know what I enjoy doing and what I really have an interest in," he said. "That's helped me decide on plant sciences as a major, and it has definitely pushed me toward where I want to be five or 10 years from now, as far as a career." ●

Photos: Eric Rowley



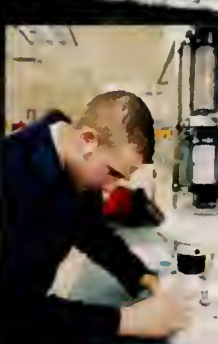
AGRISCIENCE



Student Scholarship and
Recognition Program

Interested in
turning your
science skills into
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The Agriscience Student Scholarship and Recognition Program is sponsored by Monsanto as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

ag

Motivated

FFA chapters, including Arkansas' St. Paul FFA and Wisconsin's Freedom FFA, roll up their sleeves to help those affected by last summer's hurricanes

Toyota & FFA

At Toyota, we're committed to promoting education, the environment and the exchange of ideas to enrich environmental harmony. That's why we were proud to send students and teachers from across the U.S. to the World EXPO in Aichi, Japan. There, they learned about a new global-society model for the 21st century.

Congratulations to FFA member participants of the **TYPE 2005** (Toyota Youth Program at EXPO 2005) and the **2005 Toyota International Teacher Program**.



FFA Students at EXPO
Left to Right: Courtney Timmons, Oklahoma; Lynn Campbell, National FFA Foundation; Abby Ongley, Pennsylvania; Bob Bialozynski, Wisconsin; Shelia Folan, TYPE 2005 Teacher Leader, Agriculture Teacher, California



Toyota Group Pavilion
Theme — Mobility in the 21st Century.



Teachers & Students at EXPO
Left to right: Amy Kessler, Missouri; Bob Bialozynski, Wisconsin; Kristy Jury, Kentucky; Kara Skirvin, Indiana; Craig Canterbury, West Virginia; Courtney Timmons, Oklahoma; Abby Ongley, Pennsylvania; Lynn Campbell, National FFA Foundation



Bob Bialozynski and Abby Ongley learn about robotics technology from students at Meiden High School, Aichi, Japan.

TOYOTA

For information about Toyota programs in the U.S. visit www.toyota.com/community.

To view TYPE 2005 participant journals go to www.toyota.com/expo.

Members of the St. Paul FFA in St. Paul, Arkansas, along with their advisor, Susan McDonald, made a four-hour trip to Hot Springs to bring aid to Hurricane Katrina survivors living at the Arkansas FFA Association's Camp Couchdale. Under normal circumstances, the camp is the site of the annual state FFA convention and other FFA events. After the hurricane it became home to 180 evacuees.

When St. Paul FFA learned that the Arkansas FFA had opened its doors to hurricane survivors, they immediately began a two-day donation drive. In those two days a small community came together to fill a 14-foot trailer full of donations. Among them; clothes of all sizes, canned food, bottled water, books, bedding items, stuffed animals, games and much more.

Three St. Paul FFA members—Jamie Cole, Courtney Haire and Jacob Stephenson—went to Hot Springs with their advisor to help unload the trailer. The folks at Camp Couchdale already had a great supply of donations but were very thankful for everything. For evacuees who have family back home, Camp Couchdale is paying to get them back to their loved ones. However, camp staff expected to host some evacuees until December.

"I want to thank everyone who donated," McDonald said. "We know firsthand that these folks really appreciate getting what the St. Paul school and community sent them. I'm also very proud of my FFA students and all the students who pitched in to help with this project. It was heartwarming to hear people thank my students and wave as we drove away." —By Courtney Haire, St. Paul FFA Chapter reporter

ELSEWHERE

FFA *New Horizons* has learned that several FFA chapters in Illinois have

This FFA community development story is brought to you by





St. Paul FFA Chapter members and their advisor worked with the community to fill a 14-foot trailer with donations for hurricane survivors. Among the goods they delivered: Clothes of all sizes, canned food, bottled water, books, bedding items, stuffed animals, games and much more. Other FFA chapters around the nation also have made contributions.

been working hard, together in some cases, to get relief headed south. The Naperville Central FFA Chapter collected \$9,000 in one day, and a local business matched the first \$5,000. The funds were sent to the Red Cross.

The Hamilton County FFA Chapter conducted a four-hour roadblock, where they asked passing motorists to contribute. They raised \$2,002 and sent the money to the Wayne City FFA Chapter, which organized a major effort to send a truckload of supplies to the Pine Grove FFA Chapter in Mississippi, where those FFA members distributed the goods locally. Other Illinois chapters involved in relief programs include The Eastland FFA, Egyptian FFA, Nashville FFA, Newark FFA, Massac County FFA and others.

In December, Freedom High School in Wisconsin sent a bus of 24 students (many of them FFA members) and six teachers to Lake Shore, Mississippi, to help in the cleanup effort.

They took tools, plywood and other supplies. They also brought 300 pounds of Wisconsin bratwursts which they planned to serve while distributing some of the 275 boxes (sent in a truck courtesy of Schneider Trucking) of new holiday toys they collected. The Seneca FFA in Illinois contributed two pallets of gifts to the operation.

We know that many other FFA chapters are helping out, so please send news and photos of your FFA chapter's efforts to us at: FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 69860, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960, or e-mail us at newhorizons@ffa.org. To learn more about the FFA Seeds of Hope program, see page 24 of this issue and visit www.seedsofhope.org. ●

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WHAT'S HOT

Here's how you voted in our most recent poll.

TOP 5 SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE (SAE) PROGRAMS

landscape management
crop production
swine production
dairy production
home/community development

TOP 5 AGRICULTURAL CAREERS

veterinarian
farmer/rancher
agricultural mechanic
agriculture teacher
welder

TOP 5 FFA CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT (CDES)

public speaking
agricultural mechanics
livestock evaluation
horse evaluation
job interview

TOP 5 FFA CHAPTER EVENTS

bowling
ice cream social
movie night
ski trip
donkey basketball

TOP 5 TV SHOWS

the family guy
csi
the simpsons
laguna beach
one tree hill

TOP 5 MOVIES

2 fast 2 furious
the notebook
remember the titans
the dukes of hazzard
friday night lights

TOP 5 FOODS

pizza
steak
mexican
chicken
chinese

TOP 5 STORES

wal-mart
target
american eagle
hot topic
abercrombie & fitch

TOP 5 COUNTRY MUSIC ACTS

tim mcgraw
toby keith
kenny chesney
shania twain
george strait

TOP 5 ROCK/RAP MUSIC ACTS

green day
ac/dc
usher
linkin park
nelly

TOP 5 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

helping the elderly
highway cleanup
volunteer landscaping
painting trash cans
canned food drive

TOP 5 BOOKS

the bible
harry potter books
friday night lights
the notebook
to kill a mockingbird

All surveys sent to FFA New Horizons are used in tabulating the above results. Here are the FFA chapters (in alphabetical order) that sent in the most surveys:

Stamford FFA
Connecticut

Glidden-Ralston FFA
Iowa

Wellston FFA
Oklahoma

What's Hot Survey (all new questions!)

If you won a free flight to any country, where would you go? _____

What's the most important issue facing U.S. agriculture? _____

Who's the most influential woman in U.S. history? _____

Who's the most influential man in U.S. history? _____

If you had to pick your career today, what would it be? _____

What's your FFA chapter's best fundraiser? _____

What's the best movie you've seen lately? _____

What's the best part of being an FFA member? _____

What's your favorite type of car or truck (make, model)? _____

What's your preferred style of music? _____

What's your all-time favorite pizza topping? _____

Send completed surveys to:

What's Hot

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Your Money

Tips for building your financial standing

78th
National FFA Convention

By Erich Gaukel

Seeds of Hope

FFA members and sponsors dig deep into their pockets to make the FFA Seeds of Hope hurricane rebuilding effort a success

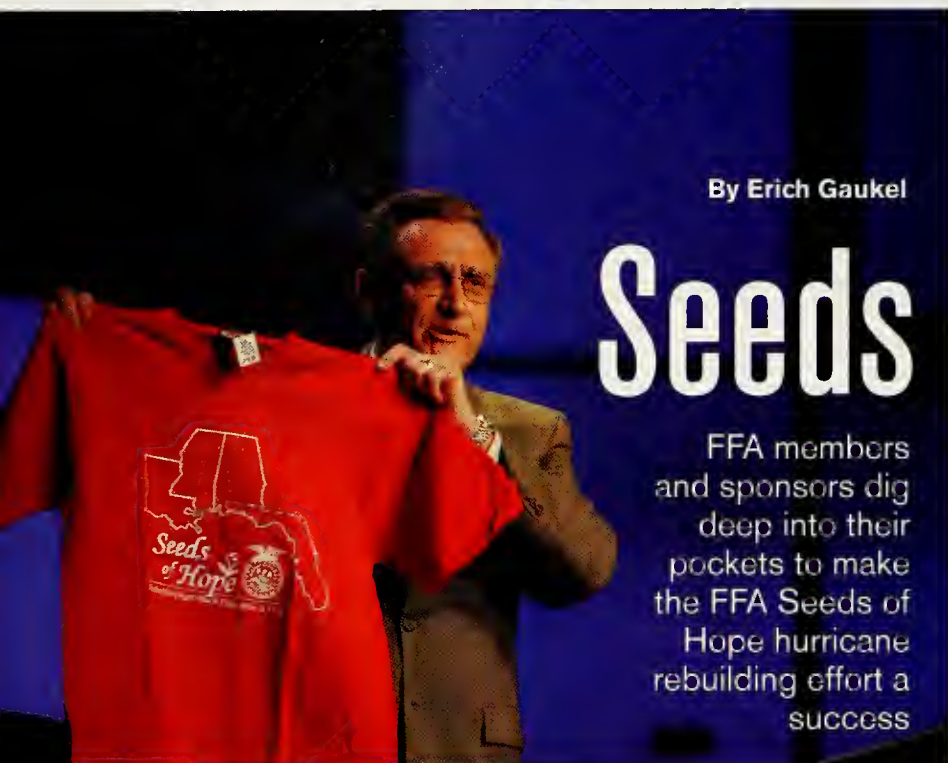
Photo: Eric Rowley

\$50,000 to the rebuilding efforts. Then, at the national convention, the company announced that it would contribute another \$100,000. The network, which reaches 29 million homes through cable and satellite services, is also airing public service announcements to encourage its viewers to contribute.

"The support from RFD-TV is a testament to the resilience and compassion of rural America partners, companies and citizens during one of the most devastating events of our time," said outgoing National FFA President Jackie Mundt. "The rebuilding efforts are far from over, but the continued support from RFD-TV and its viewers is a large step to show how grassroots efforts make a substantial difference to thousands of people."

On a related note, Dr. Dwight Armstrong, the outgoing chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors Board, announced that in 2004 the foundation had raised more than \$10.5 million. That money goes to support the many National FFA Organization programs and activities, including scholarships, awards, conferences, training and more. For his efforts, FFA awarded Armstrong, a former FFA member, the honorary American FFA Degree. ●

To learn more about contributing to the FFA Seeds of Hope, visit www.ffagive.org.



Aaron Catalanatto, the FFA member featured on the cover of this magazine, is one reason the FFA Seeds of Hope campaign exists. His family, his Ponchatoula, Louisiana, hometown and his FFA chapter were overwhelmed by Hurricane Katrina. Residents there lost jobs, electricity, phone lines, trees, parts of their homes—and, as Ponchatoula FFA Advisor Donna Winburn explained in the article about Aaron, everyone's bank accounts quickly dried up.

When Aaron arrived in Louisville to compete for a national agricultural proficiency award, he and other eligible students from the affected areas received stipends from the campaign to help defray the expenses associated with the trip. "It was a real blessing to get the money from Seeds of Hope," Winburn said.

At last count, 120 FFA chapters, 5,000 students and 150 agricultural education teachers have experienced severe or complete loss of their homes, school and property. In his

remarks to the convention's opening sessions, National FFA Advisor Dr. Larry Case (pictured above) urged FFA members to help.

"At this convention," he said, "every state in the union will be bringing their contributions of Seeds of Hope to help rebuild agricultural education and FFA in the Gulf states. Your chapter may have already contributed to the Seeds of Hope campaign or other relief efforts. However, at this convention you will have the opportunity to make personal contributions to the cause. Drop by the shopping mall. Pick up a Seeds of Hope T-shirt and wristband that says Forever Blue. I've already got mine. I'm going to make this T-shirt look good."

FFA members responded in a big way, contributing a total of \$528,024.

Corporate sponsors have also stepped up and contributed to the campaign. RFD-TV, the National FFA Organization's broadcast partner for national FFA convention coverage and "FFA Live!", initially contributed



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First Person

The FFA experience, as told by FFA members, in their own words

He's Just a 'Good Ol' Boy'

An FFA member
with great expectations

By Brett Isbell,
*a member of Oklahoma's
Fort Gibson FFA Chapter*

From my fifth grade year to today, FFA has been a part of my life. I began showing heifers at the age of 10, and neither my family nor I had a clue about it. So a soon-to-be good friend started helping me out.

He didn't want money; he was just a "good ol' boy" who decided to take me under his wing, and he was an FFA member.

From that year on, I had the utmost respect for kids in FFA. I longed for the day when I could wear the blue corduroy. That day came my freshman year. I walked into the classroom, sat down and knew it was everything I had imagined. I looked up to my ag teacher and chapter FFA officers and they inspired me to get involved. I never realized there was more to it than showing. I began writing speeches, judging livestock and I continued showing calves.

During my first year I anticipated going to all the shows and contests. I was happiest when I was in the ag truck with my friends headed to speech and cattle grading contests across the district. I met many new people and made friends with fellow FFA members from other schools. My first state FFA convention was where I realized all the opportunities of being in FFA. I saw how our state officers stole the show at the opening ceremony and how they ran the whole meeting by themselves, and I was overwhelmed. When we returned home I knew that I wanted to become a bigger part of FFA, so I decided to run for chapter office, and I won.

Today I serve as our chapter reporter. I try to set goals for myself to be better and give back what FFA has given to me. I try to return the favor to everyone by being a "good ol' boy" myself. Thank you, FFA! ●



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To submit a story about your FFA experience, follow these guidelines: 1) Your story must be approximately 500 words; 2) It must be written by you; 3) It must be accompanied by a photograph of you. Send to newhorizons@ffa.org or FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960.



Corn fed

Shannon Brown's Iowa roots feed her musical spirit

Shannon Brown's new *Corn Fed* CD is truly autobiographical. Consider it a sonic sketch of the sojourn she has experienced as her dream has taken her from a small town in Iowa to Nashville, Tennessee. "The album starts with 'Corn Fed' and ends with a song called 'Small Town Girl,' which are two songs that I co-wrote," she says. "I wanted it to be a beginning and an end because to me, they are bookends. One starts out with who I am, where I am from, how I was raised and how proud I am of that. It shows my integrity, just who I am as a person."



"'Small Town Girl' talks about how when you have dreams, you dream to leave the nest and go fulfill those dreams. But in the end, after your journey, you realize that you just want to be who you were when you left, and never let that go. I've come full circle, knowing I love to sing. But it doesn't make me who I am."

Nestled in between those songs are irresistible selections that run the gamut musically, from "Big Man," a rocking, tongue-in-cheek song that is a cross between country and AC/DC; to "Lightning," a song that pays homage to female strength; to ballads such as "Turn to Me" and "Why."

"The common thread is that these are all experiences and personal journeys that I've taken," says Brown.

The journey began in Spirit Lake, Iowa, a resort town on the Minnesota border, built along three natural lakes. That's where her mother and father, a guitarist and bandleader, owned several clubs and restaurants. "I would

go with my mom when she was cleaning the disco and I would dance on the dance floor with the lights going," Brown says. "I was always onstage, I was always performing, whether it was for me or my pretend audience. I was that typical kid with the hairbrush, always singing in the mirror or bathtub, just a little ham."

Although she sang in choruses, show choirs and pageants, she didn't dare dream of a recording career. "There has never been a time when I didn't sing," she says. "But I was never the girl who looked in the mirror and said, 'I'm going to be a superstar one day.'"

I lived in a little town in Iowa and I just truly never thought it would be a possibility."

That all changed at age 17, when she began singing on karaoke nights every Thursday at her parents' club. Her father asked her to sing just to get the crowd going, but pretty soon the crowd was returning just to hear Shannon. "One night, my dad came up to me and said, 'You could do it. You could be a professional singer. I think you have what it takes.'"

Her parents believed in her so much that they dedicated their lives to help launch her career. For nearly six years her father ran sound and her mother handled lights as she performed about 180 shows a year.

"I am convinced that it is all about timing and my past experiences, and what I went through were stepping stones to get me to this place today," Brown says. "I have no regrets. I wouldn't change a thing." ●

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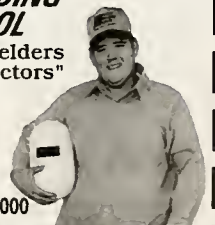
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N	O	T	S	O		S	E	T

LAST LAFF

Q: What kind of pictures do turtles take?

A: Snapshots.

Kayla Andrews
Martin, Georgia

Q: How do you communicate with a fish?

A: Drop him a line.

Luis Orozco
Stockton, California

Q: What flower is between your nose and chin?

A: Tulips.

Chris Bishop
Worcester, Massachusetts

Q: Why did the quarter stay behind while the penny crossed the road?

A: The quarter had more cents.

Robert Simmons
Greensboro, North Carolina

Q: How do you know that puppies are naughty?

A: Because they're in the doghouse.

Michael McEnany
Nevada, Iowa

Q: What is it called when you put a car and a cell phone together?

A: An automobile.

Gaby Mendoza
Rio Rico, Arizona

The Agrinuts

By Jim Bradshaw and Michael Bettendorf



Q: What did the duck say to the clerk after buying Chapstick?

A: Put it on my bill.

Carrie Corl
York, South Carolina

Q: What did the glove say to the ball?

A: I'll catch you later.

Cesar Arceo
Parlier, California

Bob: Hey, Tom! Nice trumpet you have there.

Tom: I borrowed it from my neighbor.

Bob: I didn't know you could play the trumpet.

Tom: I can't. And now my neighbor can't either.

Dan Andrews
Wauneta, Nebraska

Q: Why didn't the chicken cross the road?

A: Because somebody made a joke every time she did it.

Emily Webb
Sikeston, Missouri

Q: What kind of bird has eyes at both ends?

A: A peacock.

Mark Bronkema
Pearl City, Illinois

(Editor's note: Mark raises peacocks and says he made up this joke while doing his chores one day. He says a peacock's long feathers are called eye feathers.)

Q: Why did the cow buy a CD player?

A: So he could listen to his moosic.

Donnie Arnold
Corydon, Iowa

Q: Why did the owl say to the other owl?

A: Hoo Hoo are you?

Jayde Wuori
Rolla, North Dakota

Q: Where can a monster always find friendship?

A: In a dictionary.

Marlana White
Cuba, Illinois

We pay \$5 for each printed joke. Because we receive so many jokes, we can't acknowledge receipt of submissions. E-mail jokes to newhorizons@ffa.org or mail to FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 69860, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Entries that do not include the following will not be considered: name, street address or rural route (no P.O. Box addresses) and your FFA chapter.

Puzzler

by Matt Gaffney

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9				10				
11				12				
13				14				
15					16	17	18	19
				20	21			
22	23	24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

ACROSS

- Fast food place started by Colonel Sanders
- National FFA Convention award winner Catalanatto
- Piece of corn
- Grim
- "Much ___ About Nothing" (Shakespeare play)
- Filmed
- Mark Palmer and Dan Luckey's FFA chapter
- Computer owner
- Piece of furniture in a classroom or an office
- One state where Jasmine Medley says she wouldn't mind moving for school or work
- "Living to ___"
- (national FFA convention theme)
- Material used to pave roads
- A second time
- Greek letter
- "___ fast!" ("Slow down!"); 2 wds.
- 6-1) or 6-4, in tennis

DOWN

- Actor Reeves
- Becomes dimmer
- "Master and Commander" actor Russell
- Concerning: 2 wds.
- Gore (Australian who spoke at the national FFA convention)
- Tear apart
- "Nice job!" in Spanish
- Mr. Flanders, on "The Simpsons"
- New FFA president ___ Jett
- New FFA central region vice president Anita ___
- Play hockey, for example
- 24-___ gold
- Jay who hosts a show late at night
- ___ Francisco
- Self-absorbed person's problem
- Animal that's attracted to trash

Several clues are based on stories in this magazine. See solution on page 27.



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FFA Across the USA

Dispatches from FFA chapters across the nation

North Carolina

Slow-moving vehicles

In October, eight members of the East Lincoln FFA Chapter volunteered at the fifth annual Killian Farm Antique Engine and Tractor Show. The members were in charge of keeping the grounds free of trash. They also competed in the tractor rodeo hosted by the Stumptown Tractor Club. John Alden showed his antique John Deere and placed second in the slow-tractor race. The FFA members saw this as an opportunity to display chapter unity and teamwork and to show their commitment to the local community. They can't wait to help out again next year. Pictured here, kneeling from left: J.T. Thomas, Don Turner, Landon Vernon, Ben Turner;



Standing from left: Ivy Mercer, John Alden, Brandon McAlpine and Stanton Shirley.
Reporting by
Shane Norris,
East Lincoln FFA
Chapter advisor

Petting zoo and peanuts

Every year, members of the New Brockton High School FFA Chapter do their part to educate children about a variety of animals during their annual petting zoo. Visiting local elementary schools and childcare centers, the members guided children through their zoo and helped them handle the animals. The members also held their annual peanut boil this fall, helping their FFA advisor pick, wash, prepare and boil the nuts. Students from the high school visited the ag building during the day to enjoy the tasty peanuts.

Reporting by the
New Brockton
FFA Chapter



Alabama

Dirty work

The Northwestern FFA Chapter rural soil judging team went to Marion County in October to compete in the state soil competition. It's the first time the chapter has sent a team in two years. The team placed 39th out of 55

teams in the state. Even though they didn't win the competition, they were proud to represent their chapter. The team included (from left) Emily Krueger, Janessa Hill, Kyle Schirm, Jesse Wilcox and Erica Lang.

Reporting by Janessa Hill, Northwestern

Ohio



FFA Chapter reporter

Nevada and Iowa

FFA chapter exchange

In July, 12 members of Nevada's Ruby Mountain FFA Chapter traveled to Algona, Iowa, and six members of the Algona FFA Chapter journeyed to Elko, Nevada, as part of an FFA chapter exchange. The purpose of the switch was to experience agriculture in another part of the country and to meet other FFA members. While in Iowa, Nevada FFA members experienced life on a Midwest farm, where they picked sweet corn and drove John Deere tractors. In Nevada, Iowa FFA members experienced life on a high-desert ranch, where they went on cattle drives and looked for gold at the mines. These are just a few of the many learning experiences enjoyed by the FFA members.

Reporting by Brant Schumacher, Ruby Mountain FFA Chapter reporter



What's happening in your chapter?

Send your news, along with a high-quality photo, to:
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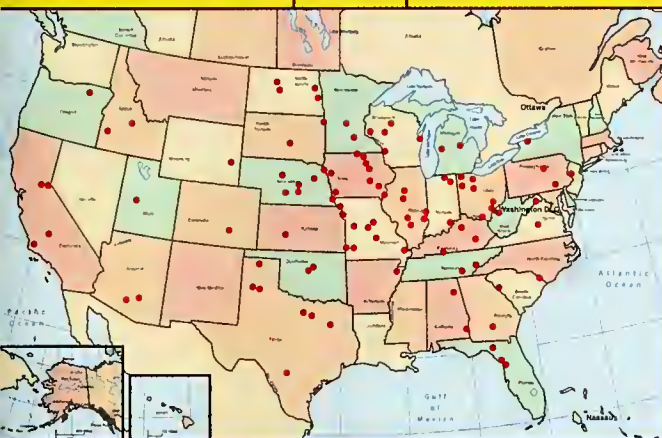
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